

RECEIVED AUG 17 2010



August 4, 2010

Mike Leslie, CEO  
Alberta Barley Commission  
2601 A – 21 Street NE  
Calgary, AB T2E 6T5

Dear Mr. Leslie,

As you know in March we requested your organization's input regarding crop research priorities for the WGRF Endowment Fund. We would like to thank you for submitting your organization's research priorities. We appreciate your feedback and participation in this process. We received research priorities and ideas from more than forty producer groups, research institutions and crop-related organizations in western Canada.

The WGRF Endowment Fund Advisory Committee (EFAC) and Executive Committee has now reviewed and ranked all of the research priorities submitted. Six broad research priority categories have been selected as important research areas that will benefit western Canadian producers of all kinds of crops. WGRF will be inviting proposals from researchers in the following priority categories:

- **Breeding Tools** - This area will include items like improved breeding methods, breeding processes, genetic markers, genomics, and other techniques to expand the tools breeders have to work with. This will accelerate the process of making new high performing crop varieties available to western Canadian crop producers.
- **Post-Harvest Handling to Address Quality/Market Access** - A number of problems arise with respect to crops post-harvest which cause economic loss to producers. Research in this area will address post-harvest issues that diminish quality and/or reduce market access for western Canadian crops.
- **New Crops and Crop Uses** – Agriculture is constantly on the lookout for a new crop to provide the economic boost that crops like canola and certain pulse crops have provided. That boost could also come by using existing crops in new ways, whether for feed uses, bio-fuels and other industrial products, specialized nutritional ingredients, or other market uses. Research is a key to discovering and developing these new crops and crop uses.
- **Pest and Weather Surveillance** – There may be opportunity to enhance or to fill gaps in already existing activities being provided in the area of pest and weather surveillance. This includes surveillance and monitoring with respect to crop disease, insects, and weeds, as well as weather related impacts.
- **Fusarium Head Blight (FHB)/DON/Mycotoxins** - FHB is a problem requiring increased research attention, including testing for FHB and DON. Problems with respect to FHB and DON are expected to continue and probably increase in scope across western Canada, threatening to cost producers considerable loss of value in the marketplace each year.



- **Agronomy** - Key aspects of this priority area are a whole farm approach focused on impacts of fertilizer use, crop sequencing, fungicide application, seeding rates, etc. for different agro-ecological zones in western Canada. The importance of agronomic research to farm profit and the shortage of this research in today's environment create a pressing research need.

Proposals will be invited immediately by WGRF in the first three priority categories listed above. The proposals will be reviewed this fall by WGRF with funding for approved research beginning in 2011. The remaining three priority research categories listed will undergo preliminary investigation prior to inviting research proposals. The purpose of this preliminary investigation is to identify more precisely where the greatest research impact is likely to be achieved. Once complete, WGRF expects to invite proposals to address the area(s) of greatest expected impact in each of these remaining three priority research areas.

Again thank you for your organization's interest and cooperation in the process of identifying and setting priorities for the Directed Research Program. We look forward to working closely with our industry partners to make the Western Grains Research Foundation Directed Research Program a steady funder of meaningful crop research that improves the profitability of farms in Western Canada for years to come. Please don't hesitate to contact the WGRF office if you wish to discuss anything regarding the Directed Research Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Dewar".

Don Dewar  
Committee Chair, WGRF Endowment Fund Advisory